

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

DATE: December 19, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Commission
Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Doug Matthews, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Task Force on Elected Representation – Final Report

On July 9, 2019, the City Commission established by Resolution a Task Force to review several resident-initiated proposals regarding elected representation in the City of Grand Rapids. Specifically, the group was tasked to provide evaluation of four primary issues:

- Moving elections to even-numbered years, concurrent with state and national elections.
- Changing the composition of the City Commission to an 8/1 single-member district system.
- Requiring a general election for the top two candidates in a Commission race, regardless of the outcome of primary elections.
- Requiring a special election to fill any vacancy on the City Commission.

Over the subsequent four months the group has deliberated, discussed and debated these issues. Through the course of that discussion they explored related issues and alternatives as well. It was clear to me that the group took its charge quite seriously and was deliberate and thoughtful in their process.

Attached you will find the final report from the Task Force, which will be followed up by a presentation at Committee of the Whole in January. In addition to the report, the Task Force compiled a significant body of documentation and research that can be found [here](#).

It has been a pleasure facilitating the work of this group, and I hope you find the compiled feedback helpful. Please let me know if you have any additional questions I might help with.

Cc: Joel Hondorp, City Clerk
Anita Hitchcock, City Attorney